



United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia

Channing D. Phillips  
United States Attorney

---

## PRESS RELEASE

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

**USAO Public Affairs**

(202) 514-6933

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc)

### **Former Maritime Administration employee sentenced to prison term for fraud in connection with identification information**

*--Over a 14 month period, woman used identities of others to obtain over \$13,000 in loans over the Internet--*

WASHINGTON - A 42-year-old Summerville, South Carolina woman, Stefanie Weathers, was sentenced on January 14, 2010, to a fifteen-month period of incarceration for fraud in connection with identification theft, U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced today.

During her guilty plea on October 30, 2009 before the Honorable Paul L. Friedman, Weathers admitted that between November 22, 2006, and February 11, 2008, she possessed forms of identification, such as names, dates of birth and social security numbers, of more than ten individuals and fraudulently used this information to obtain loans over the internet from more than ten companies. All of the loan proceeds were deposited in accounts controlled by and belonging to Weathers. Weathers admitted that, among other methods, she used her work computer and a fax machine at the Maritime Administration in Washington, D.C. to obtain the fraudulent loans. She also admitted that, using the means of identification of others, she created driver's licenses, earning and leave statements, bank statements and checks to use as documentation in the scheme to fraudulently obtain loans.

"Public service is a public trust and the Secretary of Transportation has made it clear that employees of the Department must adhere to the highest ethical standards," said Kathryn Jones, Special Agent-in-Charge of Investigations for the Washington Region in the Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General. "We will continue to work with the Secretary and Modal Administrators, along with our law enforcement and prosecutorial colleagues, to aggressively pursue cases where employees attempt to abuse this trust or misuse their position."

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Phillips praised the efforts of Department of Transportation Office of the Inspector General Special Agent Dennis Ocampo, who conducted the investigation in this case. He also commended Paralegal Maggie McCabe of the U.S. Attorney's Office who assisted in the prosecution, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas J. Hibarger, who prosecuted the case.

###